



# ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

## For the Montana Snowmobile Program

**MISSION.** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, through its employees and citizen commission, provides for the stewardship of the fish, wildlife, parks and recreational resources of Montana, while contributing to the quality of life for present and future generations

All Montanans have the right to live in a clean and healthful environment. This environmental analysis is intended to provide an evaluation of the likely impacts to the human environment from proposed actions of the project cited below. This analysis will help Montana State Parks fulfill its oversight obligations and satisfy rules and regulations of both the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Please provide a discussion for each section. If no impacts are likely, be sure to discuss the reasoning that led to your determination.

### PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of proposed action.

Development \_\_\_\_\_

Renovation \_\_\_\_\_

Maintenance \_\_\_\_\_

Land Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_

Equipment Acquisition \_\_\_\_\_

Other (Describe) \_\_\_\_\_

2. If appropriate, agency responsible for the proposed action.

3. Name, address phone number and E-mail address of project sponsor.

4. Name of project.

5. If applicable:
- Estimated construction/commencement date
- Estimated completion date
- Current status of project design (% complete)
6. Location affected by proposed action (county, range and township).
7. Project size: estimate the numbers of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:
- (a) Developed:
    - residential ..... \_\_ acres
    - industrial ..... \_\_ acres
  - (b) Open Space/Woodlands/  
Recreation..... \_\_ acres
  - (c) Wetlands/Riparian  
Areas ..... \_\_ acres
  - (d) Floodplain..... \_\_ acres
  - (e) Productive:
    - irrigated cropland ..... \_\_ acres
    - dry cropland ..... \_\_ acres
    - forestry ..... \_\_ acres
    - rangeland ..... \_\_ acres
    - other ..... \_\_ acres
8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

- |              |         |             |
|--------------|---------|-------------|
| (a) Permits  |         |             |
| Agency Name: | Permit: | Date Filed: |
|              |         |             |

(b) Funding	
Agency Name:	Funding Amount:

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities	
Agency Name:	Type of Responsibility:

- Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_  
(signature) (print)

- 3

## PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Land Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

1. LAND RESOURCES  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?						
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?						
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?						
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?						
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?						
f. Other						

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Air” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on air resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

2. AIR  Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))						
b. Creation of objectionable odors?						
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?						
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?						
e. Any discharge that will conflict with federal or state air quality regs?						
f. Other						

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Water” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on water resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

3. WATER	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
<b>Will the proposed action result in:</b>						
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?						
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?						
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of floodwater or other flows?						
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?						
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?						
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?						
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?						
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?						
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?						
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?						
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?						
l. Effects to a designated floodplain?						
m. Any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations?						
n. Other:						

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Vegetation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on vegetative resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

4. VEGETATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?						
b. Alteration of a plant community?						
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?						
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?						
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?						
f. Effects to wetlands or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other:						

**PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Fish/Wildlife” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on fish and wildlife resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?						
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?						
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?						
d. Introduction of new species into an area?						
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?						
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?						
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?						
h. Adverse effects to threatened/endangered species or their habitat?						
i. Introduction or exportation of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected location?						
j. Other:						



**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Noise/Electrical Effects” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of noise and electrical activities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

6. NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Increases in existing noise levels?						
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?						
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?						
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?						
e. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Land Use” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on land use. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects.

7. LAND USE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?						
b. A conflict with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?						
c. A conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?						
d. Adverse effects on, or relocation of, residences?						
e. Compliance with existing land policies for land use, transportation, and open space?						
f. Increased traffic hazards, traffic volume, or speed limits or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?						
g. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Risk/Health Hazards” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects of risks and health hazards. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects of the action as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?						
b. Effects on existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create need for a new plan?						
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?						
d. Disturbance to any sites with known or potential deposits of hazardous materials?						
e. The use of any chemical toxicants?						
f. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Community Impact” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on the community. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

9. COMMUNITY IMPACT	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?						
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?						
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?						
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?						
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?						
f. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Public Services/Taxes/Utilities” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on public services, taxes and utilities. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. An effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered, governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If so, specify:						
b. Effects on the local or state tax base and revenues?						
c. A need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?						
d. Increased used of any energy source?						
e. Other.						
Additional information requested:						
f. Define projected revenue sources.						
g. Define projected maintenance costs.						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Aesthetics/Recreation” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on aesthetics & recreation. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?						
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?						
c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)						
d. Adverse effects to any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas?						
e. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Cultural/historical Resources” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects on cultural/historical resources. Even if you checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?						
b. Physical changes that would affect unique cultural values?						
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?						
d. Adverse effects to historic or cultural resources?						
e. Other:						

**HUMAN ENVIRONMENT.** At the bottom of this “Summary Evaluation of Significance” checklist, provide a narrative description and evaluation of the cumulative and secondary effects. Even if you have checked “none” in the above table, explain how you came to that conclusion. Consider the immediate, short-term effects as well as the long-term effects. Attach additional pages of narrative if needed.

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT				Can Impact Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown	None	Minor	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)						
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?						
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?						
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?						
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?						
f. Have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy?						
Additional information requested:						
g. List any federal or state permits required.						



### PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST CONCLUSION SECTION

1. Discuss the cumulative and secondary effects of this project as a whole. These are impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in combination to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

2. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this Environmental Checklist (Part II), is an EIS required?

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

If an EIS is not required, explain why the current checklist level of review is appropriate.

3. **Public Comment.** Sponsors should pay special attention to the public comment and legal notice requirements since they have changed for the 2012 grant cycle. Please note that grant applicants are no longer required to post a legal notice initiating a 30-day public comment period to apply for a Snowmobile Program grant. Public involvement required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act will be satisfied by Montana State Parks, which will initiate a programmatic public involvement process after all grant applications are reviewed and tentatively approved.

Montana State Parks still encourages public involvement in all of its grant-funded trail projects. The general public, adjacent landowners, and other interested parties should be involved from the onset. Promotion of public participation may be through newspaper articles and any other means available, such as public meetings, federal quarterly newsletters, TV programs, radio announcements, etc.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Affected Environment** – The aspects of the human environment that may change as a result of an agency action.

**Alternative** – A different approach to achieve the same objective or result as the proposed action.

**Categorical Exclusion** – A level of environmental review for agency action that do not individually, collectively, or cumulatively cause significant impacts to the human environment, as determined by rulemaking or programmatic review, and for which an EA or EIS is not required.

**Cumulative Impacts** – Impacts to the human environment that, individually, may be minor for a specific project, but, when considered in relation to other actions, may result in significant impacts.

**Direct Impacts** – Primary impacts that have a direct cause and effect relationship with a specific action, i.e. they occur at the same time and place as the action that causes the impact.

**Environmental Analysis or Assessment (EA)** – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that either does not significantly affect the human environment or for which the agency is uncertain whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

**Environmental Assessment Checklist** – An EA checklist is a standard form of an EA, developed by an agency for actions that generally produce minimal impacts.

**Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** – A comprehensive evaluation of the impacts to the human environment that likely would result from an agency action or reasonable alternatives to that action. An EIS also serves a public disclosure of agency decision-making. Typically, an EIS is prepared in two steps. The Draft EIS is a preliminary detailed written statement that facilitates public review and comment. The Final EIS is a completed, written statement that includes a summary of major conclusions and supporting information from the Draft EIS, responses to substantive comments received on the Draft EIS, a list of all comments on the Draft EIS and any revisions made to the Draft EIS and an explanation of the agency's reasons for its decision.

**Environmental Review** – An evaluation, prepared in compliance with the provisions of MEPA and the MEPA Model Rules, of the impacts to the human environment that may result as a consequence of an agency action.

**Human Environment** – Those attributes, including but not limited to biological, physical, social, economic, cultural, and aesthetic factors that interrelate to form the environment.

**Long-Term Impact** – An impact, which lasts well beyond the period of the initial project.

**Mitigated Environmental Assessment** – The appropriate level of environmental review for actions that normally would require an EIS, except that the state agency can impose designs, enforceable controls, or stipulations to reduce the otherwise significant impacts to below the level of significance. A mitigated EA must demonstrate that: (1) all impacts have been identified; (2) all impacts can be mitigated below the level of significance; and (3) no significant impact is likely to occur.

**Mitigation** – An enforceable measure(s), designed to reduce or prevent undesirable effects or impacts of the proposed action.

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – The federal counterpart of MEPA that applies only to federal actions.

**No Action Alternative** – An alternative, required by the MEPA Model Rules for purposes of analysis, that describes the agency action that would result in the least change to the human environment.

**Public Participation** – The process by which an agency includes interested and affected individuals, organizations, and agencies in decision making.

**Record of Decision** – Concise public notice that announces the agency's decision, explains the reason for that decision, and describes any special conditions related to implementation of the decision.

**Scoping** – The process, including public participation, that an agency uses to define the scope of the environmental review.

**Secondary Impacts** – Impacts to the human environment that are indirectly related to the agency action, i.e. they are induced by a direct impact and occur at a later time or distance from the triggering action.

**Short-Term Impact** – An impact directly associated with a project that is of relatively short duration.

**Significance** – The process of determining whether the impacts of a proposed action are serious enough to warrant the preparation of an EIS. An impact may be adverse, beneficial or both. If none of the adverse impacts are significant, an EIS is not required.

**Supplemental Review** – A modification of a previous environmental review document (EA or EIS) based on changes in the proposed action, the discovery of new information, or the need for additional evaluation.

**Tiering** – Preparing an environmental review by focusing specifically on narrow scope of issues because the broader scope of issues was adequately addressed in previous environmental review document(s) that may be incorporated by reference.